

The Baptist Informer

LIGHT



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Voice of 350,000 Baptists

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Convention In Statesville Makes History

The 101st Annual Session of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina held in the new, modern and spacious facilities of the First Baptist Church, Statesville, October 28-31, will certainly command a chapter in the history of North Carolina Baptists. From the words of a veteran pastor, Dr. W. L. Mason of St. James in Rocky Mount, "This is the best session we have had in fifty years."

J. C. Harris, pastor of the host church along with his congregation provided the high type entertainment that a word like complete would not adequately describe. He and his committees carried out entertainment plans to perfection. We did not hear a single complaint. J. C. has the convention in his hand in which he serves faithfully as Statistician.

The convention got under way on Monday, October 28, with the 19th Annual session of the Laymen's League meeting around the theme: "The Baptist Laymen's Ministry in this our time of World Crisis," the laymen presented a challenging and stirring program. Frank Marshall, president of Asheville brought a profound address in tears in which he challenged the churches and the laity to greater service.

The parent body of the convention moved off on Tuesday afternoon with a meeting of the Executive Committee. Dr. A. J. Ryans, Chairman, presided over this meeting in which the first reading of the proposed new constitution of the convention was given by C. W. Ward, Secretary of the convention's constitution committee that is chaired by K. O. P. Goodwin of Winston-Salem. The Executive Committee commended the work of the Constitution Committee and recommended a reading of the document to the convention in session; a second reading at the One Day Session of the Convention and the third and final reading for adoption to the 102nd session

of the convention to be held with the Sycamore Hill Church, B. B. Felder, pastor in Greenville.

Following the Executive Committee meeting, the General Board under the chairmanship of Dr. J. Ray Butler was called in session. The board endorsed unanimously the work of the Executive Committee and recommended the same to the convention.

President John W. White of Asheville officially called the General Baptist Convention to order Tuesday, October 29 at 7:30 p.m. He presented the host pastor who along with city, church and community leaders gave a meaningful welcome to the delegates. The response to the welcome program was eloquently given by E. T. Thompson, pastor of Community Church, Durham.

The Annual sermon was all that the name implies. J. Jasper Freeman, pastor of First, Powellsville and Queen Street, Norfolk, Virginia fully addressed himself to this task by delivering a soul-searching sermon on the subject: "Some Certainties in an Age of Doubt."

Paul Johnson, pastor of Martin Street, Raleigh really stood the convention on its head when he preached a sermon on "Law and Order 1968."

Dr. J. E. Cheek, president of Shaw University, profoundly moved the convention in a sermon on the traditional Wednesday Shaw University night.

Another stirring sermon was delivered by C. C. Lawrence of Rich Square.

The address of the convention was the president's annual address. All of us will have to agree that President White is an outstanding address maker.

Other addresses that stirred and challenged the convention were delivered by J. B. Humphery, pas-

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THE BAPTIST INFORMER
ORGAN OF THE GENERAL BAPTIST STATE
CONVENTION OF NORTH CAROLINA, INC.

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(CONVENTION—from Page 1)

tor of First Church, Charlotte; S. A. Raper, pastor Mt. Calvary, Shelby; Dr. Reginald Hawkins, a candidate for Governor of North Carolina in the Democratic Primary, Charlotte; C. C. Craig, Assistant to the Executive Secretary, Raleigh; H. V. Bryant, Central Orphanage, Oxford; and W. W. Finlator, pastor of Pullen Memorial, Raleigh.

The Convention's Executive Secretary, O. L. Sherrill gave a glowing account of his stewardship and reported progress of the convention in every area of its work and outreach. He also reported a bumper financial year for the convention.

Reporting also were J. Ray Butler for the General Board; J. C. Harris on convention statistics; W. B. Lewis, Historian; Talmadge Watkins for the Trustees; Mrs. M. A. Horne for the Women; E. M. Butler for the Sunday School Convention; J. T. Hawkins for the B. T. U. Convention; Frank Marshall for the Laymen; Arthur Williams for the Ushers; Corbin Cooper for the Department of Interracial Cooperation; and George W. Dudley for the Baptist Informer.

The Convention went on record as forthrightly endorsing those political candidates that came nearer to promoting the hopes and aspiration of our people. This was a big forward step for the convention.

From beginning to ending, the 101st Annual Session of the convention had a jammed packed program with inspiration, certainty and power.

WE EXTEND OUR PRAYERFUL SYMPATHY —

To Dr. David R. Hedgley, Winston-Salem in the passing of his beloved wife, Mrs. Christine Kelly Hedgley. A delegation from our convention went from Statesville to Winston-Salem to be with Dr. Hedgley and attend the funeral service on Tuesday, October 29. The service held in First Church where

Dr. Hedgley is pastor, was presided over by Dr. K. O. P. Goodwin, pastor of Mt. Zion and a beautiful timely eulogy was delivered by Dr. Kenneth R. Williams, president, Winston-Salem State Teachers College.

To Mrs. J. W. Wiley, Rocky Mount in the passing of her beloved husband, the Reverend Joseph Weldon Wiley. He was pastor of the Carters Church, Roanoke Rapids; Oak Grove and Enon Churches in Littleton. Funeral services were held in the Mt. Zion First Baptist Church, Rocky Mount on Thursday, October 24 with George W. Dudley, pastor, presiding. A powerful befitting eulogy was delivered by Dr. C. C. Staton of Weldon.

To Mrs. U. G. Moye, Kinston in the passing of her beloved husband, the Reverend U. G. Moye, Pastor of the First Baptist Church, Kinston.

To Mrs. J. A. Avery, Raleigh in the passing of her beloved husband, the Reverend James Arthur Avery. He was moderator of the Johnson County and Tar River Associations and pastor of the St. Stephens, St. Johns, Holly Springs and Johnson Piney Grove Churches. Dr. C. C. Ward, pastor of First Church, Raleigh presided over the funeral services held Friday, November 1 in Garner. The eulogy was delivered, as only a brother could, by the Reverend Nilous Avery, brother of the deceased.

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Woman's Page-----

FIRST MESSAGE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

of the

W. B. H. & F. M. C., of North Carolina

by Mrs. Vera M. Slude, President

September 21, 1968

Madam Chairman, Executive Secretary Horne, Dr. Alston, and Executive Board Members.

It is with a grateful heart that I extend to you a most cordial greeting, on this our first board meeting since the close of the 84th annual session of our great Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention. This session went down in history as a cherished memory as being one of the best.

It is always inspiring to meet with this group of dedicated women, who have put forth such effort to promote the growth and progress of an organization that has made and is still making such a great contribution, not only to the State of North Carolina, but to the world.

Such meetings act as strengthening agents when we can meet together to evaluate our past years work, discuss our achievements and aims, count our losses and gains, and deliberate upon the course of action to follow, to do a better and greater work for this most worthy cause.

Allow me, at this point, to express my profound gratitude for the confidence you have in me, in electing me as your president. In my humble way, I pledge my best both to Christ and to you, in the execution of the duties that pertain to my office.

I am entering this official capacity with a deep sense of humility, because no one can hope to replace the efficient and unique talents of my predecessor, Mrs. Berthenia D. Horne. As I have said before, Mrs. Horne led the women of this great convention to the mountain top, passed the responsibility of leading this organization as its president to me and left me wondering where do we go from here.

Sisters, I have faith in God, faith in you, and I believe if I pray for His guidance He will direct us in the right direction, and through your prayers, cooperation, and support, we can leave the mountain top and together we can explore the stars.

Again, I pledge to you my best of service. Permit me if I may to define for you my version of the word **SERVICE** by using relative words, beginning with the first letter S, termed as Sacrifice.

S—Sacrifice. In order to render service we must be willing to make a sacrifice. We must sacrifice our time, our talents, our resources, home and often family, by saying, I'll go where you want me to go, Dear Lord, I'll do what you want me to do.

E—Efficiency. Mental efficiency and good leadership is an essential to the success of the operation of any organization. Every person has some nature fitness and ability that could be put into action for themselves and others. To have a progressive organization we must have efficient leaders, who are willing to render service.

R—Responsibility. No Christian can live through these crucial times without incurring great responsibilities. Unifying moral, spiritual, and financial forces of our convention is the responsibility of the entire Baptist family throughout the State of North Carolina. I do not shrink from this responsibility, I welcome it, because I have the assurance that you are going to give me the same support that you have given through the years.

V—Vision. This element is the success of society; it is the quality of one's vision that determines success. We as leaders must have a vision. Where there is no vision people perish.

I—Initiative. A good leader must be willing to initiate important movements and lead in making them a success.

C—Consecration. No organization can become one hundred per cent efficient without members who have some capacity for leadership ability, and are willing to set apart, dedicate, and consecrate their powers to the service of God.

E—Edification. Sisters, this is my earnest plea to you, please continue to work, and strive to edify, (Continued on Page 4)

ASSEMBLY SITE DONORS

From the office of Women's Executive Secretary M. A. Horne.

First Baptist — Lumberton	\$100.00
Dr. E. Burns Turner, Pastor	
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First Baptist — Winston-Salem	150.00
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Dr. T. A. Watkins, Pastor	
University Park Baptist — Charlotte	100.00

build, improve, and promote the growth of our great-convention.

— SUMMARY —
 S — SACRIFICE
 E — EFFICIENCY
 R — RESPONSIBILITY
 V — VISION
 I — INITIATIVE
 C — CONSECRATION
 E — EDIFICATION

In conclusion to further define my version of service, may I share with you this poetic thought.

It isn't the cut of the clothes that you wear,
 Nor the stuff out of which they are made;
 Though chosen with taste and fictitious care
 It isn't the price that you paid.

It isn't the size of the pile of money in the bank,
 Nor the number of acres you own;
 It isn't a question of prestige or rank
 Or sinew or muscle or bone.

It isn't the servants that come at your call,
 It isn't the things you possess,
 Whether many or little, or nothing at all,
 It's service that renders success.

To the Woman's Baptist State Convention of North Carolina I pledge my service.

ATTITUDES TOWARD THE CITY

(A Sermon delivered by The Reverend Preston Pendergrass, Pastor, Mt. Moriah, Belmont, during the 95th Annual Session of the N. C. State S. S. and B. T. U. Convention, held with the Corner Stone Baptist Church, Greenville, N. C., August 6-8, 1968). Text: (Excerpts from) Gen. 18:23-26; Jonah 3:4, 4:5; Matt. 23:27. "Then Abraham drew near and said, 'wilt thou indeed destroy the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; wilt thou destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? . . . And the Lord said, 'if I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.'" "Jonah began to go into the city . . . And he cried, 'Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown' . . . "Then Jonah went out of the city . . . and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city." "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not."

Speaking of "change" as your theme implies, to me, the greatest present day change, having the greatest effect upon the greatest number of people closest to us, is the population shift to the cities. Already Negroes constitute a majority of the inner city population in such major cities as Wash-

ington, D. C., Detroit, Atlanta, Chicago, Cleveland, Newark, St. Louis, and Philadelphia, and the trend is continuing. Even Charlotte, N. C. is rapidly becoming a city. It is indicated by its segregated pattern of housing, and its high crime rate. When the Poor People's March stopped in Charlotte some time ago, a pathetic cry went over the loud speaker that someone had picked one of the poor people's pocket.

It seems that people have always been attracted to the cities. I feel that it was not poverty, nor even the strife of country shepherds, but possibly the bright lights and the noise of the city that caused Lot to "pitch his tent toward Sodom." Today, rat and roach infested Ghettos are filled with people who left the farms of the south as tenants and sharecroppers, and made their flight to the city — looking for hope, but finding nothing but despair — cherishing dreams that never came true. They were lured to the city because they thought they saw a spot of blue sky in the dark clouds of poverty and starvation, but the rains came.

Yet, whether in the run-down shanties of the South, or in the dilapidated ghetto shacks, or the high-rise apartments of the inner city, the lost still must be found, and the found must be fed. In the face of these changes, the Church still has the same obligation, the same command of Jesus, "make disciples . . . and teach them . . . To me, the greatest challenge these changes offer the Church and the Church School is reaching and teaching those, who by some strange false promise of security, have been lured from the rural farm communities to the nation's cities. To make disciples and teach them is the Church's unchanging constant among the variables. With this unchanging divine imperative in an ever changing world, we must decide, as Christians, what will be our attitude toward the modern city; where the people are, and where the action is. Harvey Cox, in his book, *The Secular City*, says: "The functions of the Church is to discern the action of God in the world, and join him in his work." The Church must not resent, but must respond to these and other social changes. Let us look at three traditional attitudes toward the city. That of Abraham, Jonah, and Jesus, as set forth in the text.

I. Abraham's attitude was to make a survey of the city. Make a study of the moral and spiritual conditions of the city. "If I find 50 righteous persons, will you spare the city from destruction? But notice when God promised to participate in the study, Abraham, being a good Jew, jewed God down to 40, to 30, to 20, and finally 10 righteous people. Yet in spite of the compromises, God was forced to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham did not offer to make any righteous people, but to make a study and find righteous people al-

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HISTORICAL SKETCH



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH — BURLINGTON

The First Baptist Church of Company Shops now Burlington, North Carolina had its beginning in a protracted meeting in the year 1868. The Reverend Lewis B. Gibson of Greensboro, North Carolina and the Reverend Harry Cowans of Salisbury were the spiritual advisors. Working with them was the Reverend Spencer Thomas who served for many years as the pastor. This body of Baptist worshippers worshipped for a while in the old log school in which it had its birth, on alternate Sundays with the A.M.E. Church of Graham, North Carolina. Later the body moved into an old school house which had been discarded by the white people of the community. About 1878 the church sought an independent worshiping place and erected a two-story building, the first story of which was used as a church while the second story was used as the meeting place for lodges and general entertainments. About 1880 this building was remodeled and the upper story left off. Within less than ten years this building was remodeled with the addition of a church lobby, baptistry, a belfry and a heating system.

By May, 1923 the church membership had grown to the extent that the pastor, Reverend J. E. Boykin and the members began to look for a new site and in 1926 the present lot was purchased.

In October, 1937 under the pastorage of Reverend O. P. Foster the old building was moved to this lot and remodeled. In 1952 under the pastorage of Reverend D. G. Speller this building burned and again was remodeled.

By July, 1953 the membership of First Baptist had out grown the present building and a larger building was necessary. In 1963 the present building was erected.

Under the leadership of Reverend Harold J. Cobb the church was led to become a full time church with an active membership increasing from 250 to nearly 600. A full time Day Care Center has been set up which will accommodate 70 children out of which 60 have enrolled. The

church doors open at 6:30 each morning and close at 5:30 each evening. The Center has five full time staff members and two part time workers outside the pastor. The pastor engages in business, civic, and religious work seven days a week. They have paid over 75% of the two hundred thousand which the church cost. There are over 20 Sunday School rooms, a superintendent's office, counseling room and a church office. There is also a Day Care Office which is busy all the week. Dr. Cobb does not give himself credit for this. The fine membership and cooperation of the people in the community has caused the church to advance as it has. Dr. Cobb has spent 20 years in Alamance County, he was a former pastor of the First Baptist Church of Mebane, North Carolina.

BELMONT CHURCH HONORS PASTOR

The members of Mount Moriah Baptist Church, 503 N. Central Avenue, Belmont, North Carolina, observed PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY, Sunday, October 20, 1968.

A Special Recognition Service honoring the pastor, The Reverend Preston Pendergrass was held at 3:00 p.m. at the Church. The program featured a sermon by The Reverend R. W. Perry of Gastonia. Reverend Perry is pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Clover, South Carolina and is also Instructor of Biblical Literature at Friendship Junior College, Rock Hill, South Carolina. His choirs and congregation from Pleasant Grove accompanied him.

Mrs. Maude Davis, Chairman
The Planning Committee



1. Pastor Cobb in one of the roles he plays during his busy schedule, as he answers one of the three telephones in the church.



3. Here is Dr. and Mrs. Cobb with their sons, Harold and Timothy leaving the Sunday morning worship service.



2. Here is Dr. Cobb in another role with Mrs. Virginia Maynard, Secretary, preparing the payroll along with assistant secretary, Miss Aaronna Shaw.

NOTICE

Rev. Mr. B. F. Daniels of the Missionary Baptist Fellowship of Winston-Salem also attended the Pan-American Baptist Laymen's Evangelism Congress which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He was with Mr. Frank Marshall, Mr. Nathaniel Woods, and Mr. James Pierce.

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ready made. Even now, while helpless and hopeless people die from neglect, Commissions are appointed to study the causes and investigate conditions. While wild angry youth road the streets crying "burn, baby, burn" during the long hot summers, Commissions are busy making a study of the cities. While the angry mob was pounding on Lot's door in the city, Abraham sat calmly in his suburban tent discussing the possibility of a survey of the city that might find ten righteous people. Studies usually reveal only that which is already known. A recent study revealed that more than 1/2 of all highway deaths are caused by drinking drivers. That I already knew. It has been said that when Baptists want to do something, they appoint a study committee. And when we don't want to do something, we appoint a study committee. Another trouble with most studies and surveys is that they produce great findings, but the findings are seldom binding. The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention made a recent study of their Down Town Churches of the inner city. The found that their members tend to move to the suburbs and come back to the Church building to worship. They also found that their Down Town Churches have a greater need and obligation to render an effective minis-

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SILVER MOUNT BAPTIST CHURCH — CHARLOTTE, N. C.



1—Deacon Alexander Holloway; 2—Rev. William Lee, Jr.; 3—Deacon James Young; 4—Deacon T. R. Leak; 5—In Bed—Deacon J. Alex Barber.

SILVER MOUNT BAPTIST CHURCH CELEBRATES THEIR 39th ANNUAL HOMECOMING

Silver Mount Baptist near Charlotte, North Carolina, (a new church to our state and a recent committed member of our convention), observed their 39th Annual Homecoming Day in a most attractive fashion.

The church was set aglow as four members of the church were crowned Mr. and Mrs. Homecoming '68'. The crowning followed a brief three week fund-raising effort that reported \$3,614.79 with an exception of \$400.00, delayed reports that did not get in in time to be counted on the day of the celebration (being the 3rd Sunday in October, 1968).

Presentation of the crowns was done by "Gene Potts" famous disc jockey of Radio Station WGIY. Deacon T. R. Leak took 1st place among the men with a report of \$227.00; Mrs. Minnie Elzy took 1st place among the women with a report of \$247.00; Jimmie Houston had the boys reporting \$67.00 and Adell Hicklin was 1st among the girls reporting \$51.00.

This was truly a big day in the life of this church.

The pastor was much uplifted, as he stated, this effort was reported by less than 75 members, 40%

of which were teenagers. We set no goals nor asked any member for a certain amount, we just set out to see what we could do in a three week period.

Honored in the grand celebration was Deacon John Alex Barbar, the oldest deacon of the church and the founder of the Homecoming Celebration idea. The church was disappointed that he was not able to attend and receive a beautiful plaque that was engraved in his honor.

The pastor, Reverend William Lee, Jr. and three deacons carried the ceremony to his bedside in the hospital and made the presentation. Deacon Alexander Holloway served as General Chairman of the glorious Celebration.

WE NEED NEWS!!!

FROM OUR CHURCHES, ASSOCIATIONS
COUNTY CONVENTIONS AND OTHER
RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

Send it to THE EDITOR

Baptist Informer
603 S. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601



At a dinner celebrating the Ninetieth Year of the Mount Carmel Baptist Church of Charlotte, N. C., twenty persons were honored for fifty years of membership in the congregation.

Front row, left to right: Alexander Grier for his late mother, Mrs. Alice Grier, Mrs. Eliza Mackins, Thomas McAlilly, Robert Alexander, Oliver C. Withers, George Smith and Edward L. Williams.

Back row, left to right: Mrs. Geraldine Brown, Mrs. Arnetta Moore, Mrs. Samella Cowan, Mrs. Mable Hunt, Mrs. Will-
ette Cooper, Mrs. Arphesia Nelson, Mrs. Ella Medlin, Mrs. Vivian Adams, Mrs. Agnes Grier and Mrs. Eva Harris.

Not shown are Charlie Chambers, Mrs. Nannie Smith and Mrs. Marie Smith.

Dr. L. C. Riddick, the minister, presented the awards.

(ATTITUDES—from Page 6)

try to the people who live around the Church Building regardless to their denomination, color, or race. A study by a local Presbytery revealed that their Churches should support an 'Open Housing Law.' But the pathetic thing is that the members of these Churches do not feel they are morally bound to abide by what these studies have found.

Our nation, through the Marshall Plan and others, spent 17 billion dollars to rebuild the cities and industries of Germany that we destroyed by our own bombs during World War II, but appoints a Commission on Riots to study our own cities. Our nation spends \$500,000.00 to kill one Viet Cong, but appoints a commission to study whether it can afford to spend .05 to kill a rat in its city slums. We are saying to angry, hopeless mobs, don't burn down the city until we study the city. And so, Abraham, after 5,000 years, we are still surveying the city trying to find righteous people instead of making them.

II. Jonah's attitude was contempt and condemnation for the city. Out of contempt, he would rather go to Tarshish than conduct a preaching mission in the city. If I must preach to the city, I'll just

condemn the city. "Yet forty days, Nineveh shall be overthrown." You hoodlums, thugs, and trash, God is going to burn all of you up in forty days. Jonah went to Nineveh preaching, not a Gospel of redemption, but a Gospel of destruction, not a Gospel of universal forgiveness and love, but prejudice and hate. Instead of warning the city, he merely condemned the city, and took cover in his fire and bomb proof shelter on the hill outside of town, and was angry and disappointed with God when God did not destroy the city that repented in sackcloth and ashes. God had given Jonah several chances, yet he did not want to give Nineveh the first chance.

(Continued in Next Issue)

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